



Two Boards – One Terrific Program!

We are often asked why we have both the Ontario 4-H Council and the Ontario 4-H Foundation and what each organization does for 4-H in Ontario.

It is an 'easy' answer and one we are always glad to share...

The Ontario 4-H Council was created in 1988 to respond to 4-H volunteers' and parents' desire to have more responsibility for delivering the program. Its primary function was to develop and implement provincial 4-H program policies. The first board members developed bylaws to determine the structure, procedures and methods by which decisions were to be made. Since that time very little has changed with respect to the Board's mandate and role. However, with a shift in Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff resources and support, on April 1, 2000, the Ontario 4-H Council became responsible for 100 per cent of the development and delivery of 4-H in Ontario.

At present the Council's Board of Directors consists of 12 representatives, elected annually by 54 local 4-H Associations. The Directors provide vision, leadership and policy direction to the 4-H program in Ontario through local 4-H Associations and 4-H Ontario staff.

As a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency, the Ontario 4-H Council is able to provide charitable tax receipts to qualified donors who support the 4-H program.

Started in 1998, the Ontario 4-H Foundation is a federally incorporated charitable organization. Its mandate is to support the 4-H program through the development of in-year sponsorship opportunities while at the same time receiving and managing endowed funds of the organization. Trustees work hard to encourage on-going partnerships and support that will ensure the long-term sustainability of 4-H in Ontario. Income generated from the Foundation's growing portfolio of funds is used to support the 4-H program and the work of the Ontario 4-H Council. Funds are used to provide support for provincial 4-H events, train volunteers and develop timely new 4-H projects and initiatives.

The Ontario 4-H Foundation regularly receives donations, In-Memorium gifts and bequests, and is able to provide charitable tax receipts to these donors.

Today, both boards work together to ensure a successful 4-H program in the present and sound financial support for the future. Donations towards programming can be gifted directly to the Ontario 4-H Council to be used within the calendar year's program or directed to the Ontario 4-H Foundation and transferred as needed. In-Memorium gifts and bequests as well as endowment funds are directed to the Ontario 4-H Foundation for management within their portfolio of funds.

So as you can see... two hard working boards, each with specific mandates, roles and responsibilities, supporting one terrific program dedicated to the personal development of youth.

For more information about how you can support the Ontario 4-H program, please contact:

4-H Ontario,
5653 Hwy 6 North, R.R. # 5
Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6J2.

Phone: (519) 824-0101 or 1-877-410-6748
Fax: (519) 824-8759

or email Lyndon Stewart, Executive Director at lstewart@4-hontario.ca